

BOSTON 2009

The IrishEcho

Gateways to Tomorrow

Conference

World Trade Center, Boston

8-9 October 2009

Report

Conference Sponsors



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BACKGROUND

Following the Invest NI investment conference in Belfast in May, 2008, and the Global Economic Forum in Dublin in September, 2009, the Irish Echo hosted the Gateways To Tomorrow conference in Boston on 8-9 October 2009.

The conference brought together leaders from Massachusetts and northwest Ireland (for a full list of attendees, see Annex V) to agree on concrete steps they could take together to reignite the bridges of commerce, education, friendship and culture which unite our peoples.

The Gateways to Tomorrow conference grew out of the successful Golden Bridges luncheon hosted by the Irish Echo in Boston in October 2008 at which leaders of Irish America who have forged alliances with Ireland were honored.

This conference went one step further by giving Irish America the opportunity to build a new 21st Century partnership with the burgeoning region of northwest Ireland, spanning the border from Derry to Donegal.

The birthplace of the Irish civil rights movement, Derry is the urban hub of this bustling region and while the city suffered terribly during the years of warfare, it is now determined to usher in a new era of peace and prosperity with clear benefits for every section of society.

That unity of purpose of northwest Ireland was evident at this conference in the broad range of speakers and sponsors, led by the regeneration body ILEX, Derry and Donegal Councils, University of Ulster at Magee, and the Strategic Investment Board.

The response from the political, business and governmental leaders of Boston has been impressive with our two days of discussion and celebration in the city bringing together the Lieutenant Governor of Massachusetts Timothy Murray, the State Treasurer, Timothy Cahill, State Senate President Therese Murray and Rep. Gene O'Flaherty as well as legendary entrepreneur John Cullinane and the city's leading business organizations, the Boston Irish Business Association, the Irish American Partnership, and many others.

Our goals were straightforward and represented a win-win for America and Ireland:

- To attract sustainable investment to northwest Ireland by highlighting its many assets including its access to European Community markets, its highly-educated workforce, its rich quality of life and its beautiful setting.
- To encourage Irish Americans to deepen their understanding of their heritage by visiting Ireland and



Treasurer Timothy Cahill with Mayor Michael Sullivan of Lawrence, Mairead Tully of Irish Echo, First Deputy Comptroller Mary Louise Mallick and Minister Conor Murphy

"Thank you for inviting me to speak at the Irish Echo Gateways to Tomorrow Conference and for your kind introduction. I enjoyed speaking before the group and hope my remarks were found to be both interesting and informative. My best wishes for your continued success."

— Timothy P. Cahill, Treasurer and Receiver General for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

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by learning more about Ireland's culture and history through its colleges and courses.

- To keep Irish America informed of the many opportunities and developments in northwest Ireland, now and in the future.
- At a time of global turmoil, to gift America the lessons learned by Ireland in its long journey to peace.

The Irish Echo is deeply grateful to all those who have helped make this initiative possible. Special thanks goes to the NI Bureau, Hibernia Atlantic, SBLI, Derry City Council, Garvan O'Doherty, Massport, Invest Northern Ireland, ILEX, University of Ulster, BIBA, Irish American Partnership and the Moynihan Group as well as to our friends in the Boston Irish Reporter.

We remain resolved to ensure that the next great chapter in the story of Ireland and the United States will tell the story of how Irish Americans underpinned the hard-won peace in North Ireland with jobs, investment and bonds of mutual benefit.



Art McCabe (right) with Norman Houston of the Northern Ireland Bureau.

"Congrats to you and your team. You put on an excellent conference. We were particularly delighted to be able to host many of our visitors from Northwest Ireland in Lawrence immediately following the conference to further cement the links of friendship and commerce between Lawrence and Derry cities."

– Art McCabe, City of Lawrence

REPORT OF OPENING SESSION 7.10.09

Paul Dwyer, President of Boston Irish Business Association opened the conference by welcoming over 120 delegates for the standing-room only event and expressing the willingness of Irish Americans in Massachusetts to build strong bonds with northwest Ireland. He invited Senator Therese Murray, President of the Senate in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to give the opening address.

Senator Murray said that she was confident Boston and Derry could build strong links despite the global economic downturn. "Economic development, as you know, is never an easy task, and with the worldwide recession that has taken hold, this challenge is even more daunting," she said. "But, I believe that, especially in this economic downturn, the strength of partnerships between people, between businesses, between cities and countries prove to be the most beneficial. And what better cities to be partners than Boston and Derry – two cities connected by history. Two cities that can learn from and benefit from each other. Two cities that are instilled with the same determination of character and passion for the future."

**President Murray's full speech is at Annex I*

First Session – Unlocking the Potential

The first full session of the conference was addressed by panelists Conor Murphy, Minister for Regional Development, Northern Ireland and James Barnes, Community Development Director City of Lawrence, Massachusetts.

In his remarks, Minister Conor Murphy noted that the US has played a central role in the peace process over the past decade. "In fact the recent appointment of the US economic envoy to Ireland, Mr Declan Kelly, reaffirms that strong link and demonstrates the continued support of the US in building the peace and economic growth based on equality and fairness," he said.

**Minister Murphy's full speech is at Annex II.*

James Barnes said that successful regeneration required three elements:

1. Creating and sustaining a successful team
2. Community Partnerships
3. Sustaining the momentum, and using what we learn

Bringing the opening session to a close, Derry entrepreneur Garvan O'Doherty said that international partnerships would be a key element in the economic development of northwest Ireland.



Derry City Council CEO Valerie Watts presents a Golden Bridges award to Bjarni Thorvardarson.

"It is an honor to be recognized with a Golden Bridges Award."

– Bjarni Thorvardarson, CEO of Hibernia Atlantic.

Conference Plenary – 8 October

The Gateways to Tomorrow conference was formally opened by Timothy Cahill, Treasurer of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Treasurer Cahill reinforced the need for Northern Ireland to present a compelling proposition for investment in an increasingly competitive marketplace. It was essential that negative images did not return to the news agenda if the north of Ireland was to stake a claim to US investment dollars. He pledged to consider any proposal to invest state funds in the north of Ireland if a sound return could be assured.

Panel Discussion: Transatlantic Opportunities

This session was chaired by Gary Hanley, Senior Vice-President North America for Invest NI.

Addressing the conference, Paul Verbeten, President Perfecseal Inc., a Bemis Company, said that nine of the top ten global healthcare companies have a manufacturing base in Ireland. Perfecseal has a plant in Campsie, Co Derry, producing medical packaging. He stressed it was important for the government in Northern Ireland to deliver for FDI companies. "In principle, Perfecseal's business objectives are totally aligned with Government's economic priorities," he said. "The only missing piece now is the action to connect the aspirations with outcomes. We're excited about the opportunity to progress together."

Hibernia Atlantic CEO Bjarni K. Thorvardarson said the new transatlantic fibre optic cable being laid by his company would dramatically enhance broadband capability in Ireland.

"This historic initiative will add additional and much needed low latency capacity to the Island of Ireland, to further support both local and global companies," he said. "Local companies are attracted to the high capacity, extremely secure and reliable network. Businesses can now increase their communications and next-generation Internet service offerings as well as increase their access to a larger marketplace of available service providers. The new network is also attractive to global companies, such as leading financial houses, exchange markets, service providers and media companies, who require fast, low latency bandwidth that avoids traditionally congested routes, such as around the New York and London waterways."

Hibernia Atlantic recently brought its industry leading fiber optic submarine cable ashore at Portrush, Northern Ireland. This cable will connect to Hibernia Atlantic's terrestrial fiber optic ring currently being deployed to 13 towns and cities, including Armagh, Ballymena, Belfast, Castleblayney, Coleraine, Drogheda, Dundalk, Letterkenny, Derry, Monaghan, Omagh, Portadown and Strabane. By the end of this year, the cable system will connect to Hibernia Atlantic's existing transatlantic cable, thereby directly connecting Ireland to both North America and Europe.



"My sincere appreciation for the invitation to the Irish Echo Conference. I am very impressed with the presentations and the hope for continued engagement. This really gave us an up-to-date appraisal of the opportunities and challenges in Northwest Ireland and allowed us to examine the best ways we can link Boston and Derry to drive forward both of our economies and underpin the peace process."

— Representative Gene O'Flaherty

Through 'Project Kelvin', Hibernia Atlantic is the only extensive submarine and terrestrial cable deployment that will directly connect the Island of Ireland to North America.

Ireland's Journey Towards Peace

Kate McCabe, President Irish American Unity Conference, introduced General James Cullen, Co-Founder of the Brehon Law Society and a retired Brigadier General in the US Army Reserve Judge Advocate General's Corps. He said the work of the peace process was not complete.

"There are some on both sides who reject compromise and working together for a common future," he said.

"Republican dissidents and Unionist extremists cannot see the value in what has been achieved. Yet enormous progress has been achieved. Most people can see a better future, despite the risks inherent in change. They have redirected the wasted energy of conflict into a drive for opportunity for all the people of Northern Ireland. There is still a fear of change among many.

"Some communities have seen few benefits from the peace process. Training programs, relevant education, and investment are needed to bring the peace dividend to Nationalist and Loyalist communities that were usually the last to receive benefits under the old regime. There is a need for investment in interface areas, which remain deprived. We cannot let the people living in these areas lose faith in the peace process."

Panel Discussion

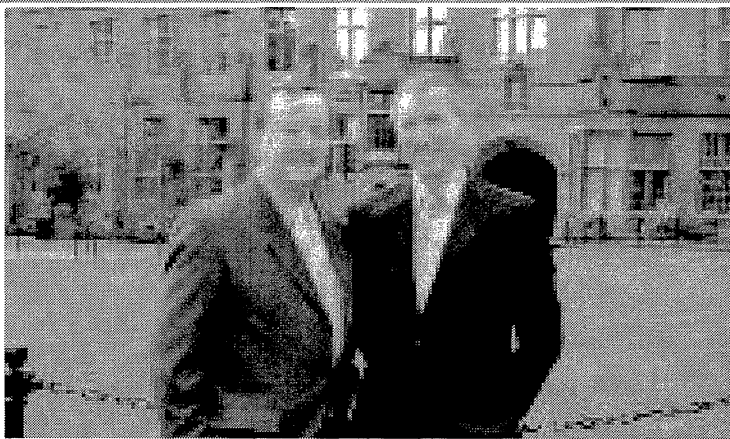
Setting the Stage: The Compelling Proposition of Northwest Ireland.

This session was chaired by Joseph Leary, President of the Irish American Partnership and addressed by Professor Dolores O'Reilly, School of International Business, University of Ulster, Magee, Derry, Dr Aideen McGinley, CEO of ILEX development agency, and Valerie Watts, CEO Derry City Council.

Valerie Watts told of Derry-Londonderry's development since the 'Our Economy Emerging from Conflict' conference in 1999. She said the city offered an opportunity for the Diaspora to reconnect and boasted world class investment sites. The city, she stressed, viewed education as "a driver and enabler".

The River Foyle, the city walls, its rich built heritage, the University at Magee and Free Derry Corner were just some of the unique and beautiful attractions in the city. The city faced "a significant challenge and a great opportunity," she added.

Dr Aideen McGinley said the ILEX project covered two former military bases at Fort George and Ebrington.



Professor Frank Talty of UMass Lowell with Máirtín Ó Muilleoir of the Irish Echo.

"The diverse and experienced speakers at the conference all indicate a bright future for Northwest Ireland and its relationship with the Boston area. I'm sure most, like me, discovered the possibilities and made new acquaintances that will certainly produce new collaboration. Thank you for bringing us all together."

— Professor Frank Talty,
University of Massachusetts Lowell

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ILEX's mission was economic, physical and social with the aim of providing increased prosperity for the city along with targeted improvements for the most deprived. Its objectives were to grow the economy, promote equality and build relationships of trust and mutual respect.

Professor Dolores O'Reilly said the the University of Ulster at Magee had almost 4,000 students. Its research strengths were IT and Electronics, Arts and Social Sciences, Business, and Law. Between 2010 and 2014, the university planned to attract 2,000 extra students to its rolls to study subjects such as International Business, Computing, Electronics and Software. In the future, Magee would be the international hub for North American students, a University of Ulster Advisory Board would be established, a Scholarship Fund backed by entrepreneur Garvan O'Doherty would assist US students coming to Magee.

"By 2030, 2,000 additional students could deliver a higher resident employment rate, higher wages and profits and an increase in GVA (wages and profits) of \$310 million per annum," she said.

Panel Discussion

The Opportunities of Regeneration

This session was chaired by Pat Bench, Business Development Director for Massachusetts Office for International Trade and Investment and speakers were Mary Louise Mallick, First Deputy Comptroller for New York State, Liam Ó Cuinneagáin, Cathaoirleach (Chair) of Údarás na Gaeltachta, and Michael Heaney, Chief Executive Donegal County Development Board.

Mary Louise Mallick said that the State of New York had earmarked at least \$30 million from its European emerging markets fund for investment in Northern Ireland. The State Comptroller Tom DiNapoli would like to see this investment improve the lot of the most disadvantaged in Northern Ireland and would welcome the opportunity to make the investment in Derry. Ms Mallick encouraged the audience to come forward with projects which could be taken forward in partnership with the Comptroller's Office.

Liam Ó Cuinneagáin stressed that Donegal was the location of Ireland's geographically largest Gaeltacht (Irish speaking area) and that the culture of the area formed a bedrock for cultural tourism and entrepreneurship. Michael Heaney pointed out that he too served on the board of ILEX and that the development of the Northwest was taking place as a joint endeavour by the peoples of Derry and Donegal.



"The conference was an unqualified success. There was a palpable buzz around every event. We are extremely impressed with the exciting projects underway in the North West and know that great things will come from this event. Already follow-up planning is underway. The Boston Irish Business Association is proud to be involved."

— Paul Dwyer, President
Boston Irish Business Association

Panel Discussion

US Visions for a 21st Century Partnership

This session was chaired by Rep. Gene O'Flaherty, Chair Joint Committee on the Judiciary, House of Representatives, Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Participating were Mike Leone, Director of Port of Boston and Chairman of the American Association of Port Authorities, Professor Frank Talty of the University of Massachusetts Lowell and legendary software entrepreneur John Cullinane of Mainmessage.org.

John Cullinane suggested that Northwest Ireland could be a hub of healthcare innovation. "The internet and smart phones, such as the Blackberry make remarkable things possible these days that could dramatically improve healthcare. It's obvious that it has great potential but some say it can't be done, others had tried, and failed and so will anyone else. That's what they said to me when I formed Cullinane Corporation in 1968 to specialize in software as a product. They said it couldn't be done, others had tried and failed, and so would I. I almost did but I eventually turned the corner with some imaginative ideas to become the first successful software company in the world. Now people think that selling software as a product is an obvious thing to do. There is a similar opportunity in telemedicine and telementoring for those smart enough to make it happen."

**For John Cullinane's full address, go to Annex III.*

Professor Frank Talty detailed the rapid steps taken over the previous 12 months — since UMass Lowell Chancellor Marty Meehan had been honoured at the 2008 Irish Echo Golden Bridges luncheon — to build links between his university and Queen's University Belfast.

These included:

1. Six U Mass Lowell students with the financial assistance of our alumni and the advancement office here, enrolled in the Queen's University International Summer School.
 2. In March 2009, Queen's Professor of Archeology Colm Donnelly proposed a joint study of pre and post famine emigration from Northern Ireland to Lowell.
- *Dr Donnelly reviewed the historical research on Irish famine emigration and identified a site in County Fermanagh to the west of Belfast called the famine road.*
 - *He then researched the American destinations of many of the emigrants and identified Lowell as a prime location for further study, in fact relying in part on the work of Lowell's own Brian Mitchell, who is now President of Bucknell University in Pennsylvania.*



Aileen McGinley (centre) with Valerie Watts (left), CEO Derry City Council and Professor Dolores O'Reilly of the University of Ulster, Magee, Derry.

"Thank you for ensuring that we all got such an excellent platform to present The derry /nw story. I know how much personal time and effort you have put into not just this event but your own personal mission to forge links between Ireland N/S and the US. Please also pass on our thanks to Connla and all your team for the hard work behind the scenes."

— Aileen McGinley, ILEX

- *And so the Acre section of the city where the Lowell Irish settled surrounding St. Patrick's Catholic Church just a short distance down the street, was identified as the focus of the post famine study.*
 - *The plan is to engage students from Lowell and Queen's in a 4 week program, two weeks in Fermanagh and two weeks in Lowell each summer for five years with the end product being a complete examination of how these Irish lived before and after the famine in their country of origin and in their new home here in the US.*
3. For the next academic year, we are in the process of organizing full semester study for U Mass Lowell students at Queen's this coming fall and St. Mary's the next spring.

We hope to provide similar opportunity for our students to study at DCU as well

4. Just last month Provost Abdelal announced the creation of the U Mass Lowell Center for Irish Partnerships. The Center's stated mission is "to work with Irish partners to create a dynamic model for cross Atlantic collaboration that will promote and advance U Mass Lowell's goals to enhance the student experience by providing a global perspective to teaching and research, while contributing to Irish interests through exchange and service" The Center also aims to serve as a source of Irish-American cultural activity in the New England area.

Next Steps and Conclusion of Plenary

The conference closed with a joint address by Sean Moynihan, conference co-organiser and Boston attorney, and Derry entrepreneur and Chair of the Port of Londonderry, Garvan O'Doherty.

Sean Moynihan said Boston stood ready to put together a masterplan for further co-operation with Northwest Ireland. "You have come here and articulated in a very effective manner what the Northwest of Ireland has to offer to companies and investors here in Massachusetts. Our job now, with your help, is to sell that vision."

Garvan O'Doherty said the Derry participants would now take back the lessons learnt at the conference and bring forward proposals for a continued engagement.



Sean Moynihan (left) with a Massport delegation showing Boston Harbour to Minister Conor Murphy (right)

"It's been a real privilege to have helped bring together the biggest gathering of business and political champions of Massachusetts and Northwest Ireland in a generation. I am confident, we have sown the seeds for further productive exchanges and partnerships in the time ahead."

— Sean Moynihan, The Moynihan Group

Golden Bridges Luncheon

The conference delegates were joined by over 100 leaders of the Boston Irish community immediately after the concluding plenary session for the fourth annual Golden Bridges Awards at the World Trade Center.

The red-letter event was addressed by the Lieutenant Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Timothy Murray, and Minister Conor Murphy.

**The full address by Lieutenant Governor Murray is at Annex IV.*

Lieutenant Governor Murray was among the honorees at the Golden Bridges luncheon (which was hosted jointly by the Irish Echo and the Boston Irish Reporter). The other honourees were:

State Senate President Therese Murray

Dancer Kieran Jordan

Bridget Shaheen of Lazarus House Ministries (recipient of Dave Burke Award)

Robert Sheridan, President Savings Bank Life Insurance

Bjarni Thorvardarson, CEO Hibernia Atlantic

John Drew, President World Trade Center, Boston

William J. Reilly, Jr., philanthropist, businessman.



Garvan O'Doherty (second from left) with Treasurer Tim Cahill, Connla Lawlor of Belfast Media Group, Minister Conor Murphy and Rep Gene O'Flaherty

"A good starter for ten on which the leaders of Massachusetts and northwest Ireland can now build alliances of mutual benefit."

— Garvan O'Doherty, entrepreneur and Chair Port of Londonderry

Annex I

Opening address by Senator Therese Murray, President The Massachusetts Senate

Good Evening, and Welcome to Boston.

Last May, I had the honor of visiting Derry. While my stay was far too short, I was instantly inspired by the passion and excitement in the city and for its future.

The common goal to reinvigorate Derry was apparent... And as we toured the Ebrington Barracks and the city itself, it was clear that this goal can and will be achieved.

During my visit, I was asked about how we approach redevelopment and what we had learned. One of the major issues I highlighted was the fact that in our zeal to focus on business development, we lost sight of some of our most vulnerable and socio-economically depressed citizens.

I am pleased to hear that you have taken note of our mistakes we made here in Boston. That you have included in your regeneration plan the requirement that ensures your most vulnerable citizens will not be left behind while the city moves forward.

Providing avenues for these citizens to take their lives in a different direction, to retrain for the jobs that the city is trying to attract, only makes it a more desirable place to set up shop.

Economic development, as you know, is never an easy task, and with the worldwide recession that has taken hold, this challenge is even more daunting.

But, I believe that, especially in this economic downturn, the strength of partnerships between people, between businesses, between cities and countries prove to be the most beneficial. And what better cities to be partners than Boston and Derry – two cities connected by history.

Two cities that can learn from and benefit from each other. Two cities that are instilled with the same determination of character and passion for the future.

Other than the obvious common heritage many of us enjoy, Massachusetts and Northern Ireland share the bond of many different sectors. Health care technology and telemedicine, the film industry, and partnerships in higher education.

These are all areas where we have already begun building the bridge that will allow us to learn and benefit from each other. The key is to provide the infrastructure and investment in Derry and the surrounding area that will attract these new sectors. As I look around, it is easy to see that the desire, the potential, and the commitment are there.

Derry and Northwest Ireland are on a cusp of a new dawn — and I hope that Boston can and will be a partner in that future.

I hope you enjoy your stay in Boston as much as I enjoyed my time in Derry, and I look forward to working with you in building an economic bridge between our two cities.

Thank you.

Annex II

Address of Conor Murphy MP MLA, Minister of Regional Development, NI.

A Chairde,

Táim go han sásta a bheith anseo libh, chun labhairt libh.

Distinguished guests, Chief Honouree, Lieutenant Governor Timothy Murray, ladies and gentlemen.

I am delighted to be here tonight in Boston to help launch this important 'Gateways to Tomorrow' Conference.

My sincere thanks to the Irish Echo for inviting me to this prestigious event. Tonight and throughout the course of this important conference event quite a significant group of people are being brought together – leaders from across a range of disciplines, including government, academia, private sector business and community.

Since the restoration of our political institutions in 2007, much has been done to develop and sustain the Irish Peace Process and to realise the socio-economic benefits for the people of Ireland.

It is fitting that we are gathered here in Boston, Massachusetts, as we approach the twenty-fifth anniversary of the promulgation of the MacBride Principles this November. Massachusetts was of course the first state to endorse the Principles in 1985. Few could have guessed then the influence which the Principles would exert on future British government policy.

In the north of Ireland the gap between the 'haves' and the 'have nots' has widened as never before. 19 of the top 20 most deprived areas in the north of Ireland are located either in North and West Belfast, or in Derry City. Of the 50 wealthiest areas, none of them is located in North and West Belfast or in Derry. So all of us genuinely committed to public service have a responsibility to tackle these realities and not merely bookmark them.

More and more, the sensible and smart approach to sustainable social development is one which builds the outcomes of equality into the objectives of economy. Such an approach is good for both private business and public benefit.

The US has played a central role in this effort over the past decade and more. In fact the recent appointment of the US economic envoy to Ireland, Mr Declan Kelly reaffirms that strong link and demonstrates the continued support of the US in building the peace and economic growth based on equality and fairness.

US Secretary of State, Hilary Clinton will also be in Ireland next Monday for political discussions with Gerry Adams and other party leaders.

This Conference is of significant importance also in this broader effort. Our focus is centred upon investment and co-operation now and in the time ahead. It is about creating new opportunities, new partnerships between Boston and North-West Ireland.

I am delighted to have been invited to address this important event and sincerely hope that we can use it to create maximum benefit to the citizens of Boston and North-West Ireland.

I want to recognize and affirm the crucial role played by Irish America and the Irish Echo in developing an inclusive peace process and in putting equality and human rights at the heart of the agreement on behalf of all the people across the island of Ireland.

This unflagging friendship and practical help and support is beyond value. I hope that the political, economic and community leaders from Massachusetts can be part of this ongoing effort now and in the future as a result of our conversation here over the next two days.

At home our Executive which, although still in its early days, has set a Programme for Government which reflects local needs and aspirations. These are premised on the fundamental principles of equality and fairness, an end to decades of political discrimination, partnership and power-sharing.

The All-Ireland architecture of our political institutions is also critical. Our All-Ireland bodies and structures have played a pivotal role in ensuring that we act in the best interests and to the mutual benefit of all the people of Ireland in terms of economic growth, tourism, agriculture, transportation and so on.

We have a cadre of talented and committed people – working across all sectors of our society who work tirelessly to ensure that we realise our potential.

More specifically, I would now like to tell you about some of the things my Department, the Department for Regional Development, is doing to help unlock the potential of the North West. Regional Planning and Transportation are not only central to the development and maintenance of a healthy economy but have a major role to play in setting the sustainable agenda.

REGIONAL PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION

I have initiated a fundamental review of the North's Regional Development Strategy, which is currently underway. Central to this strategy is the North-West region of Ireland. Derry is the regional capital city of North West Ireland. The North West Region is the local government districts of Derry, Limavady, Strabane, Letterkenny and County Donegal.

Derry is the fourth largest city on the island. Along with Letterkenny, it operates as a gateway for the whole of the North West Region providing employment, education and health services to a wide area. This region of some 300,000 people has a young population and this will have consequences for future growth, housing, education and employment.

I believe that we must now actively plan for economic recovery and a return to prosperity. It will depend upon centres such as Derry and Letterkenny becoming the drivers for this move forward and providing the conditions needed for business incubation, innovation and educational and research excellence. This will aid recovery not just in the North West but across the whole island.

We have seen drastic changes in the economic position at home and throughout the world in the last 12 months. Changes so marked that many people fully understand that bold solutions, and not simply balancing efforts, will be required for recovery. These solutions need to deal with how we adapt to climate change, how we harness knowledge and greener technologies, and how we balance economic growth with living more sustainable lives.

The Executive in the North have agreed to move forward with a cross border Initiative which brings together the resources of government departments north and south to work for the North West Region. This approach reflects the new dispensation and political reality of All-Ireland collaboration.

We are also devising an overarching spatial framework for this North West Gateway which will have three core objectives;

- Developing an Integrated Cross Border Approach to Planning and Policy.
- Working towards an Effective Cross Border Implementation Mechanism.
- Prioritisation of Resources on a Cross Border Basis.

Already ILEX, the Derry City Regeneration Company, is leading the way through a masterplan approach which links into the wider cross border transportation and community network. This is supported by agreements between Government Departments on the delivery of selected health and higher education services on a cross border basis.

ROADS

On roads and transportation, our aim is to deliver high quality infrastructure within the region, including quite significant roads that will hugely improve its linkages with both Belfast and Dublin and the rest of Ireland.

Only recently we have completed a 4 lane highway to the north and east of Derry.

We currently have a roads project under construction between Derry and the City of Derry Airport. This will improve connections with the regional airport.

Over the coming years, in excess of £1.2 billion will be spent on providing other major road schemes to connect Belfast to Derry and Derry to Dublin including a 54 mile dual carriageway – the longest single road project ever to be undertaken in Ireland.

The North West will enjoy considerably reduced journey times to Ireland's two major cities.

PORTS

The Port of Derry is a success story. It is a Trust Port – a statutory body, operating on a commercial basis for the benefit of the local economy with surpluses re-invested to improve and develop facilities. Over the past five years trade through the Port has doubled, as has its annual profit. Over this period the Port has strengthened its importance as a significant gateway for the North West of Ireland, particularly for the distribution of fuel and material for the agricultural industry.

The Port is currently developing its plans for the next five years and I want to commend the Harbour Commissioners as they seek to reinforce the Port's contribution to the economy of the North West; and to fulfil its potential as an economic driver for the region.

At governmental level, the Executive in the North fully recognises the strategic importance of having a vibrant, efficient ports sector able to support the economy. We are currently working to reform the legislative and governance framework within which the trust ports, such as Derry, operate. We want them to be able to operate even more efficiently and effectively; and be better able to respond to the commercial opportunities that hopefully will arise in the future.

CITY OF DERRY AIRPORT

We have made significant levels of investment in CODA.

The Executive, jointly with the Irish Government, is providing £14 million of public financing to assist a £19 million Runway Safety Project which is now virtually completed.

RAIL INVESTMENT

One of my Department's key objectives in investing in public transport is to make our public transport a first choice rather than a last resort. We are working to encourage commuters and other travellers to use public transport for their journeys instead of the private car.

SIGNIFICANT

Capital investment in railways in 2008/09 and over the next two years is £137m. The indicative total for the 7 years from 2011/12 onwards is £320m.

When I came into office I lifted the restrictions on investment in the Belfast to Derry line. That enabled bids for a substantial upgrade to the Belfast to Derry line to be submitted as part of the investment strategy for the region through to 2018.

I am pleased to say that the renewal of the track between Coleraine to Derry is due to commence in 2011/12. It is a major project with estimated costs in the region of £75m.

The purchase of 20 new trains which is currently underway will allow two additional trains to be deployed on the Belfast/Derry line and will facilitate the delivery of an enhanced level of service when the Coleraine to Derry track relay is complete in 2013/14. This will enable reductions in journey times of up to 30 minutes and improvements to frequency on the Derry line.

The investment will mean that Derry will have a first class rail service to Belfast and on through to Dublin.

It will also be a key transport corridor for the North West into Donegal and will be a substantial asset for the whole region.

The Department will seek to maximise the opportunities to apply for EU funding in support of eligible capital works on the Derry line.

A £12m track life extension works north of Ballymena is now complete.

INVESTMENT IN BUSES

The past few years have seen significant investment in buses. During 2003/4 to 2008/09, almost £127m was spent on the purchase of new buses and the upgrade of bus stations. The budget and ISNI 2 allocations provide some £35m over the next 2 years and a further £112m for bus over the following 7 years to 2018.

The new buses now provide a more modern, comfortable and reliable service and a real alternative to the car.

During the three-year period from 2007-10, we are investing over £172M on water and wastewater facilities in the north-west area.

Turning to a longer term global challenge, relevant to us all – sustainability. Water and sewerage services must be sustainable if we are to build for the future. This includes planning for development and growth, while preserving the environment for future generations.

Reducing energy consumption is one of the biggest challenges facing our water and sewerage industry. Our water and sewerage provider (NI Water) is currently the largest consumer of electricity in the North and clearly has a role to play in reducing carbon costs. Already, renewable energy is deployed to help meet energy needs where it is economically justified. However, we must do more.

We need to explore the opportunities for adopting a more sustainable, holistic approach to water and sewerage provision. This may be through the use of sustainable drainage systems, low carbon treatment plants or other catchment based solutions.

All this costs money and funding is a key issue which the Executive is currently considering. Whatever we agree, the services must be affordable if they are to be sustained.

CONCLUSION

I hope that you will appreciate the depth of my commitment to securing a vibrant, confident and modern North West Ireland. I look forward to benefiting from your experience and knowledge as we work together to unlock the potential of the North West.

The Executive and our Programme for Government is clearly focused on the economy, its development and growth now and in the time ahead. This is about;

- Investing in Enterprise and Innovation,
- Investing to Export
- Investing to attract Foreign Direct Investment
- Investing in Tourism, Sustainable Energy and Skills

Our priorities and energies in Government are focused on economic growth and delivering a progressive social reform agenda. Ultimately, it is about how we position ourselves collectively going forward in achieving a sustainable prosperous future for our citizens and communities.

I firmly believe that a real positive opportunity exists today which allows us to develop and harness a new 'socio-economic partnership' between Boston and North-West Ireland – a mutually beneficial relationship where civic society, our business sector, academic and political institutions can come together and create new opportunities and investments.

I want to again recognise the fact that we have a very significant collection of people present here today across all these spheres from both sides of the Atlantic.

I look forward to hearing from other contributors on how we may move forward and what thoughts people have to offer for consideration on this conversation of 'Gateways to Tomorrow – Unlocking the potential'.

Go raibh míle maith agaibh go léir.

ANNEX III

Address by John Cullinane

The main goal of this conference is to encourage more contact between the Northwest of Ireland and Massachusetts and help both economies create more jobs.

I for one have found it very helpful because I really didn't know very much about Northwest Ireland, but thanks to this conference, I know a lot more. Ironically, I have some important personal ties to Northwest Ireland. For example, my mother's brother, Walter Fitzgerald, was a seaman in WW1 serving on the RMS Laurentic, a Harland & Wolff ship, which hit a mine just after leaving Lough Swilly, County Donegal, and sank on a cold January night in 1915.

This ship is still famous because it was carrying 3200 ingots of gold worth \$50,000,000 to Canada. A mass grave, and a monument, to my uncle and the other 259 who died that night is located in Buncrana, County Donegal and it's a place I would like to visit some day.

Incidentally, all but 20 ingots of the gold were recovered by British divers. In time, the ship also has become a destination ship for divers from all over Europe.

An ironic postscript is that the Royal National Lifeboat Institute has a station in both, Buncrana and Dunmore East, County Waterford, where my Uncle was from, as were my parents. It's at the opposite end of Ireland from Buncrana and very much like Chatham, Massachusetts, a picturesque seaside town with a fishing fleet etc. The RLNI is an all volunteer organization that does great work in rescuing seamen, fishermen, boaters etc. However, it needed some help in securing new equipment for its boat so I underwrote the cost.

At the time the Institute had just created a museum and offered to name it after me. I thanked the head of the RLNI but suggested that they name it after my uncle, Walter Fitzgerald, who, as I said, was lost with the RMS Laurentic. The Head of the RLNI was astounded to learn this connection with the ship because he was a diver and had actually dived on the Laurentic. He had even had secured artifacts from it that were now in the Institute's museum in Dunmore East, a remarkable coincidence.

Regarding possibilities for job creation in the Northwest of Ireland that could be linked to Massachusetts, telemedicine and telementoring represent a great opportunity, in my opinion.

In essence, this would involve providing both 7/24 medical support services to patients in Ireland, or the Irish diaspora around the world. It also would include highly experienced doctors mentoring less experienced doctors using the Internet.

The timing is right because the technology exists to do it and the island of Ireland is noted for strong medical skills. These services could be provided from home, a huge advantage for rural Northwest Ireland. There is one major problem though, and that is that the healthcare industry is extremely resistant to change and innovation. As a result, hospitals are 20 years behind in IT technology.

However, the internet and smart phones, such as the Blackberry make remarkable things possible these days that could dramatically improve healthcare. It's obvious that it has great potential but some say it can't be done, others had tried, and failed and so will anyone else. That's what they said to me when I formed Cullinane Corporation in 1968 to specialize in software as a product. They said it couldn't be done, others had tried and failed, and so would I. I almost did but I eventually turned the corner with some imaginative ideas to become the first successful software company in the world.

Now people think that selling software as a product is an obvious thing to do. There is a similar opportunity in telemedicine and telementoring for those smart enough to make it happen.

The thought occurred to me, literally, this morning, at 4am, why not start with student veterinarians as a way of getting around the healthcare industry. They could demonstrate the concept of using smart phones, such as their Blackberrys, to link back to their schools and/or experienced veterinarians with pictures of the animal's problem and to be telementored, as to what to do.

This could include treatment of family pets. It would be a kind of an electronic "all creatures great and small". Thus, maybe, the Northwest of Ireland could use this idea to make telemedicine and telementoring a practical reality. This could lead to Northwest Ireland becoming a world leader in telemedicine and a node in the virtual day. One thing I learned on my many trips to Northern Ireland is that when its people recognize a good idea they are extremely good at implementing it. Maybe, this is one.

ANNEX IV

Address of Timothy Murray, Lieutenant Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to the Golden Bridges Luncheon

Thank you very much.

I'm generally a person who focuses on the work at hand, the problems we face and how we find solutions.

I don't spend a lot of time thinking about who gets the credit or recognition when things go well.

But I do want to say sincerely, that I appreciate this award in a very special way, and I am honored to be in the company of the others receiving Golden Bridges awards at this conference.

Because I don't see it as recognition of just one person's efforts, but of the long-standing and collective work of so many people here today, and of those who worked for generations before us, to build the bonds that link the Irish and American people.

I am proud to be part of that wonderful tradition and to receive this award today. So thank you very much.

This February my wife and I took our young daughters to Ireland—it was their first time there, and it was such a thrill to see them taking it all in.

My wife's family is from Ireland, and three of my four grandparents immigrated to the United States from Ireland.

Our clan may not hail directly from the North West Region, but like so many Americans of Irish decent, we feel a connection to the entire Irish landscape, not only our ancestral homes.

Centuries of history bind our communities together—Massachusetts and Ireland— and there was something very moving about bringing our family full circle...taking our daughters, who are immigrants themselves having come to us from Guatemala, taking them back to the old country of our grandparents really underscored how small this world has become—how integrated all people are, and how our futures are so clearly bound up together.

And that's really why we're here today. To promote the economic relationships between Massachusetts and Northwest Ireland, and the entire island, and in that effort I believe we have a clear common goal.

A prosperous and growing economic relationship between Massachusetts and Ireland can be good for all parties concerned, and that's exactly what Governor Patrick and I have worked to foster and sustain.

Of course, we're not starting from scratch. There is already a significant amount of business being done between companies in Massachusetts and Ireland, both in the Republic and in the North.

Looking back, we see the good work that flowed from Boston Ireland Ventures, set up by my friend Ray Flynn as Mayor in 1987 with the help of his then colleagues in government Stephen Coyle and Frank Costello, and with Phil Haughey in the private sector working with John Hume and many others in Derry and also in partnership with Galway City.

That effort led to the formation of Derry Boston Ventures and to the evolution of Northwest Ventures.

And it gave rise, at a critical time in the history of Derry and the entire Northwest region, to valuable mutually beneficial investments such as the Foyleside Shopping Centre in the middle of Derry City headed by the O'Connell Brothers Development based here in Quincy.

It provided a classic example of a public private partnership with transatlantic roots and along with it brought Derry's civic leadership and entrepreneurs as well as those from Galway to Boston together for four world class unprecedented trade and investment shows at Boston's World Trade Center from 1988-1991, and to the partnership between the University of Massachusetts and Derry's Magee College that continues to see many student exchanges.

All this started long before the dream of an "Irish Peace Process" was anything more than that, just a dream.

And I would be remiss if I did not cite the work of John Cullinane who not only started the Massachusetts Software Council but helped spawn many new software firms in Northern Ireland and the border counties by gaining the support needed for the RADIANT and RADIUS Projects at a critical time in the Irish peace process.

And while we meet today in a time of economic challenge, the history shows us that what was accomplished in harsher times can serve as a model in a time of peace.

How companies from the North West can now come to Massachusetts and build their businesses, and how firms here in the Commonwealth can continue to grow across the Atlantic.

BOSTON 2009

Today in Massachusetts, we have about 6,000 people working for Irish-owned companies—that's number one in the United States. California is second, with about 5,000 people employed by Irish companies.

On the flip side of our relationship, as you know many Massachusetts companies have significant operations in Ireland, both in the Republic and in the North. Genzyme, Liberty Mutual, Boston Scientific, Covidien, Cognex, EMC and so many other Massachusetts companies have been investing in Ireland for years.

I live in the city of Worcester, where we have a large Abbott Labs facility in our Biotech Park, and I know that Abbott has a major presence in Ireland and in Donegal in particular with its diabetes center.

Boston-based Partners Healthcare and the Northern Ireland Department of Health recently launched the European Centre for Connected Health, to leverage technology and communications for the delivery of health services. The University of Ulster and Babson College here in Massachusetts have a joint degree program in Entrepreneurship.

The list of connections goes on and on.

The point is that Ireland and Massachusetts are already linked in vital ways, both economically and culturally, and Governor Patrick and I want those links to grow deeper and wider.

We believe that Massachusetts and Ireland are well-positioned to work together to jointly grow our economies, because when you look at the important industries for all of us, they are strikingly similar.

In the areas of software and technology, financial services, telecommunications, pharmaceuticals, healthcare, biotechnology and medical devices, the synergies between our economies are extensive and potent. And I haven't even mentioned tourism, which of course we know is a very important industry for both Massachusetts and Ireland.

Even in these uncertain economic times, I believe Massachusetts and Ireland can enhance and extend all these connections to drive robust growth in the economic relationship between our states.

And if we are successful in doing so, that increased trade, investment and economic activity will benefit us all.

It's a natural fit. Because of our shared language, Our shared culture and history, And because of simple logistics, like easy air travel, and a time-difference that allows for overlaps in the work day, doing business between our states makes great sense.

Whatever we can do to bring our states, our economies and our people closer together, I think will pay great dividends for us all.

When people come together in common pursuit, with common goals and objectives, then the sum of their efforts is greater than what they could have done on their own. That's the power of partnership, and it makes this a compelling moment.

President Kennedy once quoted the great John Boyle O'Reilly as calling the Atlantic Ocean "a bowl of bitter tears".

Today, we transcend the bitterness, and with the blessings of peace, we reach across the great divide—we link north and south, we extend our hands across the ocean, and in doing so, we strengthening our economic bonds, we reclaim our shared history, and we look beyond the troubles of the past to focus on a bright future for people all over Ireland and Massachusetts.

ANNEX V

Attendees at the Gateways To Tomorrow Conference and Patrons of the Golden Bridges Luncheon

Ann Karakatsanis, BIBA
Anna Driscoll, Boston College
Art McCabe, Manager of Community Development, Lawrence
Barry McMenamin, Back Bay Hotel
Bill Ghormley, Xconomy
Bjarni K. Thorvardarson, CEO Hibernia Atlantic
Bob Collins, University of Massachusetts
Bob Connolly, Invest NI
Brian McGrath, CEO Londonderry Port & Harbour Commissioners
Bridget Shaheen
Christopher Kozicki, Vacant Property Security of Chicago
Conor McGauran, IDA
Damian Barr, Sylvan Rentals
David Boggs, ACRO Global
Declan O'Hare, Department of Social Development
Derek Bullock, VP of Network Operations, Hibernia Atlantic
Doreen Blades, BIBA
Dr Aideen McGinley, CEO, ILEX
Ed Forry, Boston Irish Reporter Publisher
Eric McLean, Weston & Sampson Engineers, Inc
Erika Heilman, GemmaMedia
Evelyn Lager, Babson College
Fergal Woods, Finance Boston
Frank O'Connor, Economic Development Project, Lawrence
Garvan O'Doherty, Chair Londonderry Port & Harbour Commissioners, Entrepreneur
General James Cullen
George Naslas, Weston & Sampson Engineers, Inc
Gil Sullivan, AMDG
Harry Grill, K&L Gates
James Barnes, Community Development Director, Lawrence
James O'Hora, Tullett Prebon
James West, Boston College
John Cullinane, Mainmessage.org
John Drew
John Foley, Foley Law Offices
John Logan, Invest NI
John McCurdy, Invest NI
Joseph Leary, Irish American Partnership
Joseph Pickerill, British Vice Consul
Julian Regan, Marco Consulting Group
Julie Cox, Nutter, McClennen & Fish LLP
Karen Keaveney, Queens University Belfast
Kate McCabe, Irish American Unity Conference
Larry McCurry, University of Ulster School of Business, Magee
Leo McKenna, Strategic Investment Board
Liam Ó Cuinneagáin, Chair Údarás na Gaeltachta
Lisa Marie Mulhern, Invest NI
Louise O'Shea, Irish Cultural Centre of New England
Lt Gov of Commonwealth of Massachusetts Timothy Murray
Lynne McElhinney, Dept of Regional Development
Maggie Rosinski
Máirtín Ó Muilleoir, Irish Echo Publisher
Marc Iacobucci
Margaret Hughes, Boston College
Marguerite Crossan, Invest NI
Mary Ellen Donovan
Mary Louise Mallick, First Deputy Comptroller New York State
Cllr Maureen Feeney, Boston Council
Maureen Forry, Boston Irish Reporter
Mayor Michael Sullivan of Lawrence
Michael Duffy, Celtic Construction
Michael Heaney, CEO, Donegal County Development Board
Michael Loneragan, Irish Consul General
Michael Novaria, BIBA
Michael O'Connell, Boston College
Michael Patrick MacDonald
Mike Leone, Director, Port of Boston
Minister Conor Murphy, Dept. Regional Development, North Ireland
Nancy Donohue, Massport
Niamh Kingham, Invest NI
Norman Houston, NI Bureau
Nuala Friel-Wright, Donegal County Council
Orlatha Duffy
Pádraig Ó hAoláin, CEO Údarás na Gaeltachta
Pat Bench, Office of International Trade and Investment, MA
Paul Dwyer, President, Boston Irish Business Association
Paul Priestly, Permanent Secretary Dept of Regional Development NI
Paul Verbeten, CEO, Perfecseal
Philip Budden, British Consul General
Professor Dolores O'Reilly, University of Ulster School of Business, Magee
Professor Frank Talty, University of Massachusetts Lowell
Ray O'Hanlon, Editor Irish Echo
Reg McCabe, IBEC CBI Joint Business Council, Dublin
Rep Harold Naughton
Rep Gene O'Flaherty
Rep Linda Dorcena-Forry
Richard Finnegan, Stonehill College
Robert Halpin, Merrimack Valley Economic Development Council
Roger Wilson, Coleraine Borough Council
Ryan McDermott, BIBA
Samantha Dallaire
Sandra Janoff
Sean Getchell, Harvard University
Sean Stephen Durant
Sean Moynihan, The Moynihan Group
Senator Therese Murray
Senator Jack Hart
Senator Steve Tolman
Sheila Gleeson, Coalition of Irish Immigration Centers
Sr Lena Deevy, Irish Immigration Centre
Stephen Bradley, Lincoln Property Company
Stephen Johnston, Back Bay Hotel
Stephen McGlade, Dept of Regional Development
Steven Greeley, American Ireland Fund
Timothy Cahill, Treasurer of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Tom Butler, Massport
Trish O'Hare, GemmaMedia
Valeria Watts, CEO, Derry City Council
Vanessa Leite, Irish Cultural Centre of New England
Victoria Patterson, K&L Gates
William J. Reilly
William Kemeza
William Kennedy